



Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee
Research Foundation

The Nationalist

Issue: January-March 2025

From Coimbatore to Maha Kumbh – A
Journey of 2061 kms for the Divine Snan
- **Prof. P. Kanagasabapathi**

A Soul-Stirring Journey to the Maha Kumbh:
A Pilgrimage of Faith and Humanity
- **S Jaganathan**

India's Maha Kumbh 2025: Redefines Global
Event Management - **Shivesh Pratap**

प्रयागराज महाकुंभ - आस्था, प्रशासन और सांस्कृतिक
गौरव का अद्भुत संगम - **चन्द्रशील पाण्डेय**

महाकुंभ 2025 : भारत की सनातन चेतना और प्रशासनिक
उत्कृष्टता का भव्य संगम - **डॉ शैलेन्द्र कुमार शुक्ल**

महाकुंभ 2025: आस्था, आत्मगौरव और आर्थिक
सशक्तिकरण का वैश्विक संगम - **प्रिया श्रीवास्तव**

Editor

Prof. P. Kanagasabapathi
Secretary & Trustee, SPMRF

Assistant Editor

Pathikrit Payne
Senior Research Fellow, SPMRF

Editorial Advisory Board

Dr. Anirban Ganguly
Chairman, SPMRF

Binay Kumar Singh
Director, SPMRF

Shiwanand Dwivedi
Senior Research Fellow, SPMRF

Dr. Pritam Banerjee
Senior Research Fellow, SPMRF

Research Team

- Ayush Anand
- Manujam Pandey

Layout

Ajit Kumar Singh
ISSN 2454-9401

EDITORIAL

- Mahakumbh 2025: Where Faith Meets the Future

PM MODI'S VISION

- PM's address in the Lok Sabha on Mahakumbh

COVER STORY

- From Coimbatore to Maha Kumbh – A Journey of 2061 kms for the Divine Snan - Prof. P. Kanagasabapathi

POLICY ROUNDUP

- A Soul-Stirring Journey to the Maha Kumbh: A Pilgrimage of Faith and Humanity - S Jaganathan

POLICY ANALYSIS

- India's Maha Kumbh 2025: Redefines Global Event Management - Shivesh Pratap
- प्रयागराज महाकुंभ - आस्था, प्रशासन और सांस्कृतिक गौरव का अद्भुत संगम - चन्द्रशील पाण्डेय

POLICY OPINION

- महाकुंभ 2025 : भारत की सनातन चेतना और प्रशासनिक उत्कृष्टता का भव्य संगम - डॉ शैलेन्द्र कुमार शुक्ल
- महाकुंभ 2025: आस्था, आत्मगौरव और आर्थिक सशक्तिकरण का वैश्विक संगम - प्रिया श्रीवास्तव

EVENTS@SPMRF

POADCAST



BINAY KUMAR SINGH

Mahakumbh 2025: Where Faith Meets the Future

nectar followed, culminating in a battle that lasted twelve divine days—equivalent to twelve human years. Drops of the nectar are said to have fallen at four locations—Prayagraj, Haridwar, Ujjain, and Nashik—now the established sites of the Kumbh Mela.

The Mahakumbh, a sacred amalgamation of spirituality, tradition, and collective consciousness, reached new heights in 2025 under the leadership of the Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. In the final *Mann ki Baat* episode of the year, aired on 29th December 2024, he called upon the nation to unite through the Mahakumbh. He described the event as a powerful symbol of unity in diversity. He remarked, “The speciality of the Mahakumbh lies not only in its scale, but also in its diversity. Crores of people gather for this event. Lakhs of saints, thousands of traditions, hundreds of sects, numerous akhārās—all come together. There is no discrimination, no sense of superiority or inferiority. Such a display of togetherness in diversity is unparalleled anywhere in the world.” His words, “*Ganga ki aviral dhārā, na baṭe samāj hamārā*”, found true expression in the grand gathering of Mahakumbh 2025.

The Mahakumbh Mela, held once every 12 years in Prayagraj at the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and the invisible Saraswati, is one of the world’s oldest and largest spiritual and *dharmik* congregations. It is believed to have its origins in ancient Hindu scriptures and stories passed down through oral tradition. The earliest reference to a similar pilgrimage is found in the Rigveda, one of Hinduism’s oldest sacred texts. As noted on the official Kumbh website, the term refers to a divine event known as the *Sāgar Manthan*—the churning of the cosmic ocean—which is regarded as the origin of the Mahakumbh Mela. During this cosmic churning, a pot (*kumbh*) containing the elixir of immortality (*amṛta*) emerged. A celestial conflict over possession of this divine

The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Yogi Adityanath, has played a significant role in shaping this grand congregation. In this context, the Uttar Pradesh government aligned the event with its “Brand UP” vision, aiming to utilise the state’s rich heritage to attract foreign investment, encourage cultural exchange, and promote sustainable tourism. Key stakeholders from the tourism and hospitality sectors engaged during international fairs to build a global

ecosystem of participation around the Mahakumbh. This proactive strategy enhanced the reputation of Uttar Pradesh and, by extension, positioned India as a land of spirituality and forward-thinking, drawing both pilgrims and investors into its growth narrative. The Urban Development Department of Uttar Pradesh, acting as the nodal agency, was entrusted with the overall coordination of the event to ensure that every element—spiritual, logistical, environmental, and technical—was executed with precision. The double-engine government (a combined effort of the union and state administrations) has introduced a model of festival governance that now serves as a new benchmark for religious and cultural events worldwide.

A defining feature of Mahakumbh 2025 is the swift and thoughtful transformation of infrastructure. According to a report by the Press Information Bureau (PIB), the development plan includes road widening, new bridges, drainage and sewerage systems, water supply enhancements, and the construction of ghats to ensure safe access for pilgrims. More than 350 projects are currently underway, with a total investment exceeding ₹10,000 crore. With the integration of digital surveillance, an advanced command and control centre, GIS (Geographic Information System)-based planning, and RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) technology for crowd and traffic management, the path to a

smart city has been laid out. The state has employed drones for real-time monitoring and AI for predictive crowd analysis, ensuring that safety and order are maintained—even during peak periods when visitor numbers are expected to exceed 30 crores. Sanitation, a key focus of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, has been addressed through measures such as mechanised cleaning, deployment of smart toilets, and a comprehensive waste management system with the capacity to process over 600 metric tonnes of waste daily. The sanitation strategy follows a decentralised model for solid waste collection, incorporates state-of-the-art sewage treatment facilities, and includes bio-toilets to reduce environmental impact. The spirit of Swachh Bharat is embedded in every aspect of event planning and public messaging. Cleanliness drives have been organised with the participation of over one lakh volunteers to ensure the mela grounds remain spotless. These efforts reflect a vision of a clean and modern India—one that can uphold its standards even during the most populous spiritual gathering in history.

Mahakumbh 2025 is more than a religious gathering; it is a cultural festival of national importance and international relevance. With over 400 million participants, India successfully utilised this platform to showcase its rich civilisation and cultural plurality. The event featured a diverse range of programmes, including classical music performances, spiritual discourses,

yoga sessions, art exhibitions, and thematic presentations on Vedic sciences and traditional Indian knowledge systems. Particular emphasis was placed on projecting India's soft power—highlighting yoga, Ayurveda, and spiritual tourism to a global audience. The “Cultural Mahotsav” was extended across districts, inviting participation from international dignitaries, scholars, and interfaith leaders, thereby fostering broader cultural engagement.

One of the biggest logistical challenges posed by the Mahakumbh was ensuring the safety and hygiene of the crores of people attending the event. Mahakumbh 2025 had the advantage of a technology-driven security grid, equipped with real-time facial recognition, drone surveillance, and multiple mobile command centres.

Mahakumbh 2025 serves as a model for regional economic development and a renewed sense of national self-belief. The economic impact of the Kumbh Mela extends well beyond the immediate duration of the gathering. The influx of pilgrims necessitates the development of infrastructure such as roads, sanitation facilities, and temporary accommodations, thereby generating employment for local communities. Special stalls and digital platforms were established for local artisans to showcase their products under the “One District, One Product” (ODOP) initiative. Start-ups and MSMEs were integrated into the

services and logistics supply chain, contributing to livelihood generation and encouraging enterprise. Small-scale vendors, artisans, and service providers benefitted from increased demand, resulting in economic upliftment. Furthermore, the gathering supported the preservation and promotion of indigenous crafts, cuisine, and traditions, as pilgrims sought genuine cultural experiences. This not only bolsters local economies but also nurtures a sense of pride and belonging within regional communities, reinforcing national unity.

Mahakumbh 2025 is a divinely ordained convergence—not merely of rivers, but of faith in the future, where age-old customs assume a new role alongside contemporary systems, blending personal and collective identities. Through a coordinated government approach encompassing infrastructure development, cultural outreach, sanitation, and people-centric governance, the Modi-Yogi administration is poised to transform this spiritual congregation into a broader civilisational expression. As the sacred waters of the Triveni Sangam welcome millions in the coming year, they will not merely echo ancient narratives but will also appear as a canvas to the aspirations of the 21st century and the vision of a rising “New India”.

(The Writer is a Director of Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation, New Delhi.)

PM's address in the Lok Sabha on Mahakumbh

- I am present here to deliver a statement on the grand Mahakumbh held in Prayagraj. Through this esteemed House, I extend my salutations to the millions of countrymen whose contributions made the Mahakumbh a grand success. Many individuals played a crucial role in ensuring the success of Mahakumbh. I congratulate the government, society, and all dedicated workers. I also extend my gratitude to the devotees from across the country, the people of Uttar Pradesh, and especially the citizens of Prayagraj.
- We all know that bringing the sacred Ganga to Earth required an extraordinary effort. A similar grand effort was witnessed in the magnificent organisation of this Mahakumbh. I had emphasized the importance of 'Sabka Prayas' from the Red Fort. The entire world witnessed the vastness of Bharat through the Mahakumbh. This is the true embodiment of 'Sabka Prayas'. This Mahakumbh was a people's event, inspired by the devotion and dedication of the masses.
- We have witnessed the awakening of our national consciousness on a magnificent scale in the grand Mahakumbh. This national consciousness is what drives our country toward new resolutions and inspires us to achieve them. The Mahakumbh has also provided a fitting response to the doubts and uncertainties that some may have had regarding our collective strength.
- Last year, during the consecration ceremony of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, we all experienced how the nation is preparing itself for the next 1,000 years. Just a year later, the successful organization of the Mahakumbh has further reinforced this belief.
- This collective consciousness of the nation reflects its immense strength. Throughout history, there have been defining moments that become examples for generations to come. Our nation, too, has witnessed such moments that have given it a new direction and awakened its people. During the Bhakti movement, we saw a spiritual awakening spread across the country. More than a century ago, when Swami Vivekananda delivered his speech in Chicago, it was a resounding declaration of Bharat's spiritual consciousness, instilling a deep sense of self-respect among Indians.
- Similarly, our freedom struggle was marked by several such turning points—the Revolt of 1857, the martyrdom of Veer Bhagat Singh, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's clarion call of "Delhi Chalo," and Mahatma Gandhi's Dandi March. These events inspired the nation and paved the way for independence. I see the Prayagraj Mahakumbh as another such defining moment, where we can see the reflection of an awakened nation.
- We witnessed the enthusiasm and spirit of the Mahakumbh in Bharat for nearly a month and a half. Millions of devotees

gathered with deep faith, rising above concerns of convenience or hardship. This unwavering devotion is one of our greatest strengths. But this joy and fervour were not confined to Bharat alone.

- Last week, I was in Mauritius, where I carried sacred water from the Triveni Sangam in Prayagraj during the Mahakumbh. When this holy water was offered at the Ganga pond in Mauritius, the atmosphere of devotion, faith, and celebration was truly remarkable. This moment reaffirmed how our traditions, culture, and values are being embraced and celebrated with great intensity.
- When a society takes pride in its heritage, we witness grand and inspiring moments like those seen during the Mahakumbh. This strengthens our sense of brotherhood and builds confidence that, as a nation, we can achieve great milestones. The deep connection with our traditions, faith, and legacy is a priceless asset for today's Bharat.
- The Mahakumbh has given us many invaluable lessons, and one of its greatest gifts is the nectar of unity. It was an event where people from every region, every corner of the country, came together as one. Shedding personal egos, they embraced the spirit of वयम् (the collective We), rather than मैं (the individual I). People from diverse states became a part of the sacred Triveni.
- When millions of people from different regions strengthen the spirit of nationalism, the unity of our country grows even stronger. When people speaking various languages chant 'Har Har Gange' on the banks of the Sangam, it manifests the essence of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' and strengthens unity.
- The Mahakumbh demonstrated that there was no distinction between big and small—it reflected Bharat's immense strength. It reaffirmed that the profound element of unity is deeply ingrained within us. The power of our unity is so great that it can overcome any attempt to divide us. This unwavering spirit of oneness is a blessing for every Indian.
- At a time when the world is witnessing fragmentation, this grand display of solidarity is our greatest strength. Unity in diversity has always been Bharat's defining trait—we have always believed in it, felt it, and we experienced its most magnificent form in Prayagraj's Mahakumbh. It is our responsibility to continue nurturing and strengthening this unique legacy of unity amidst diversity.
- The Mahakumbh has also provided us with numerous inspirations. Our country is home to many small and large rivers, some of which are facing serious challenges. Drawing inspiration from the Kumbh, we should consider expanding the tradition of 'Nadi Utsav' (River Festivals). This initiative would help the present generation understand the importance of water, promote river cleanliness, and contribute to the preservation of our rivers.
- I firmly believe that the nectar of wisdom gained from the Mahakumbh will serve as a strong foundation for achieving our national resolutions. Once again, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to everyone involved in organizing the Mahakumbh. I bow to all the devotees across the country and convey my best wishes on behalf of this esteemed House.

From Coimbatore to Maha Kumbh – A Journey of 2061 kms for the Divine Snan



Prof. P. Kanagasabapathi

Tamil Nadu is a land of temples, with many of them having a very long and unique history. Even in small villages, one could see many temples. When people begin to settle in a new place, temple comes up there automatically. Tamilians believe that going to Kashi and offering prayers to Lord Shiva at least once in their life time is their duty. They usually undertake this holy pilgrimage after attaining the age of 60 years. When they take up such exercise, they visit a few other prominent temples in the region such as Ayodhya. In the recent periods, many of them undertake visits covering major holy shrines in the northern states of India. The local voluntary groups from different centres of Tamil Nadu organize such trips in association the tour operators. But going to the Kumbh is not common in the state.

After coming to know the significance of Kumbh, I wanted to participate during the previous occasion itself. But by the time I decided it was already over. So I was planning to visit this time since November 2024 and it happened to be the Maha Kumbh also. Also I desired to take the Holy Snan during Brahma Muhurtham. Since I could not find suitable friends in Coimbatore, I consulted my friends in U.P. and Delhi. It was decided not to take up the pilgrimage during the important snan

days due to large crowds and during the visits of the top-most leaders as there would be huge restrictions. Hence after deliberations, we decided to take the snan in the early hours of February 10th 2025.

What started off as a team of 3-4 close friends, the tally reached 12 by word of mouth, including ladies and children, representing the northern and southern parts of Bharat, namely Delhi, Haryana, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. As the train tickets were not possible for all of us within a few days, my friends chose travel by road in a convenient vehicle. We left Delhi on February 8th by 10.30 am hoping to reach Prayagraj the next day morning as the distance is around 670 kms.

But we could reach our place of stay, a village on the banks of the mighty river Ganges, about 3 kms near the Kumbh sthan only by 7.30 pm on February 9th after about 21 hours of travel. During the course of our visit we learnt that it was due to the heavy traffic that prevailed for 3-4 days during that time. On the way we took breakfast in a decent road-side hotel and later lunch at a Dhaba. There were crowds in these places, particularly during lunch as we were nearing Prayagraj.

More than a week before our departure for the holy trip, we had rented a house in the village for two days of stay through Sangh friends. The house owner received all of us and after getting refreshed we were provided with dinner. Soon we went to sleep, as we had to get up very early next day. On 10th Feb. we got up from bed at 3.30 am and after

completing our daily morning routine, we left the place for the holy Sanagmam by 4.15 am. After walking for about 3 kms. we could reach the Triveni Sangamam area by around 4.45 am.

On the way we could witness a sea of pilgrims entering the banks and leaving them after the bath. There were people from diverse backgrounds - men, women, elderly and children. One could see people from the very ordinary sections of the society, with women carrying bags on their heads, entering the holy place with pure devotion. It was a rare sight where we saw the faith uniting millions of people on a daily basis. It is this faith that unites the largest number of people anywhere on the earth since the ancient periods.

We entered the sacred place, slowly stepped into the river and took the holy dip at around 5 am with prayers. It was a very divine experience and once in a life-time opportunity. Immediately I could realize the greatness of Sanatana Dharma as a way of life and feel proud to be a part of our great civilization with thousands of years of proud history. It is very difficult to put the experience in a few words, as several thoughts crossed the mind. The water flowing in the mighty rivers made us realize the continuous flow of time and the temporary nature of human life.

After coming out of the holy waters, the pandits over there applied sandals on our foreheads with the image of Lord Shiva. Then our friends took a few photos and we changed our clothes. Soon we walked towards the Hanuman ji temple. On the way I stood over a bridge- like structure and saw a sea of humanity over the entire region. It was a sight that I have never witnessed in my life time, sea of humanity along the banks of the river

as far as I could see.

We offered prayers at the Hanuman Ji temple, thanking Him for giving us an opportunity to visit the place. From there, we went to a hotel inside and took food. While returning we went around the Kumbh area and saw the fine arrangements made by the state administration. Kudos to the Yogi Government. As a citizen from Tamil Nadu, ruled by the notorious anti-Hindu DMK party, I could understand the difference in attitudes and approach of the state machinery, and witness what a nationalistic double-engine Government could do.

Then we went around the Akharas, got blessings from the Naga Sadhus and saw the pilgrims who were staying there on the banks of the river for ten days to two weeks, taking regular baths in the holy river and offering prayers while observing strict rules. One of them said that his family members usually take part and stay for two weeks during every Kumbh. How lucky they are.

For many of us, this was the first time that we saw Naga Sadhus directly. There was an interesting incident with one of them during our return. Three of us went to seek the blessings of one Naga Sadhu sitting by the side. The Sadhu told one of my friends, who is rich and earning good money through different businesses, to start donating a part of his income regularly to the poor and the needy. We were really surprised, as it would not be possible for anyone to find out my friend's backgrounds from his appearance and approach. During my turn, the Sadhu said that I would be meeting him again after six years.

Then we visited few pandals and stalls and interacted with a few people to understand

what was going on. On the way we saw the pictures of Lord Muruga, the important God of Tamilians, displayed prominently in many posters. When enquired about it we were informed that Lord Muruga has a prime place in a major Akhara in North India. I felt that this should be informed to the people of Tamil Nadu, particularly the Dravidian elements. In their attempt to create false narratives in Tamil Nadu, the Dravidian groups even divide Gods. For them Lord Ram is a North Indian. As Lord Muruga is the most popular deity, no one can deny His place; hence they accept Him as Tamil God, little knowing that He is prayed in other parts of the country as Karthikeya.

After hours of walking and interacting, we returned to our place by about 3.30 pm in the evening. The house owner brought one Mr David, a U.S. citizen who was staying in the opposite house. He said that he has been frequently touring India for the past several years particularly visiting the holy places. He informed us that he was there for the last three days and would be staying there for the next few days also, visiting Kumbh every day. We saw many from the foreign countries, both men and women, in Kumbh. It is learnt that several lakhs of them from different countries took part in Kumbh this year.

Our original plan was to start early on Feb 8th and go to Ayodhya, pray Lord Ram and then go to Prayagraj. But we were informed a day in advance that the Ayodhya visit was not possible due to heavy crowd. And after the Kumbh, we were planning to go to Kashi and offer prayers to Lord Shiva. We were told that vehicles to the city of Varanasi were not allowed. We tried our best to see whether there was any possibility of visiting Kashi

till 10th evening through our friends and contacts. We came to know from multiple sources that it was not possible to enter the city in the vehicles.

Hence we started our return journey to Delhi by around 7.30 p.m in the evening. The traffic was very heavy and we had to move very slowly for about three hours. We could go to a restaurant only during late night. There was heavy crowd, but we took the easily available items for dinner and left. Again there were traffic jams in a few places. On 11th February, the next day, we stopped the vehicle in a road side dabha and took breakfast. On the way the ladies and children in our team were signing bhajans and we also listened to devotional songs. In between we had snacks, biscuits and fruits that were carefully brought by the Haryana families. Some of us took short naps, while the children were playing.

It was already 1.30 pm, when I reached my place. It was a highly memorable trip, a life-time opportunity that we were able to get, as this Maha Kumbh takes place once in 144 years. The experiences that I got during this visit and the holy snan are highly memorable and are going to be with me during my entire life.

We are all lucky to be born in this ancient land of Bharat, the land of Hindu Dharma, that is sustaining us our great civilization, and the one that continues to teach each one of us the lessons that we need. It is our duty to preserve nurture and preserve our Dharma for the emergence of Bharath as a nation, for the humanity to survive and flourish.

*(The writer is Secretary & Trustee,
Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research
Foundation, New Delhi. Views expressed
are personal)*

A Soul-Stirring Journey to the Maha Kumbh: A Pilgrimage of Faith and Humanity



S Jaganathan

There have been numerous articles covering the stupendous infrastructure put up to manage the Maha Kumbh 2025, the supremely efficient administration by Uttar Pradesh Government well-coordinated with the central agencies to manage the mammoth crowd that humanity has never witnessed before, so through this article I will try and cover my spiritual journey to the Maha Kumbh. As well as the Spiritual, Devotional, and absolute self-surrender to the Divine of the 660 million who congregated for this event.

As I stepped onto the sacred soil of Prayagraj on the 17th of February 2025, the air around me buzzed with an energy unlike anything I had ever felt before. The scent of incense mixed with the cool breeze from the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and the mystical Saraswati. The Maha Kumbh which happens once in 144 years, the world's largest spiritual gathering yet was underway with around half a billion people already taking part in the Maha Kumbh taking their holy dip in the confluence, and I was about to be a part of something far greater than humanity – it was a Samudra of Faith.

A Sea of Devotion

Millions had gathered and marching towards the Triveni ghat, their eyes reflecting unwavering faith. Some walked barefoot for miles, carrying their devotion in their hearts and “Har Har Mahadev” on their lips. Others held onto family members, determined to reach the banks of the Triveni Sangam, where a single dip in the holy waters was believed to cleanse a lifetime of sins. The sheer magnitude of human belief overwhelmed me. It was nothing short of a Spiritual Deluge. Here, social status, wealth, and worldly worries seemed to dissolve in front of the holy waters —everyone was equal in the eyes of the divine as we stood on the Triveni Ghat. I truly experienced oneness with all around and hence a sustained connect with the Divine.

The Holy Dip: A Moment of Awakening

As dawn painted the sky in hues of gold and crimson, we waded into the sacred waters. The river, cold and soothing, embraced me as I took the holy dip. In that moment, time seemed to stand still. The chants of “Har Har Mahadev” echoed around me, and I closed my eyes, surrendering to the moment. When I emerged, I felt lighter, as if the burden of countless worries had been washed away.

The Spirit of Humanity

Beyond the rituals and the religious fervour, what truly moved me was the



spirit of humanity. Strangers helped one another navigate the vast crowds. Volunteers tirelessly served food, their smiles a testament to the joy of giving. People shared stories, laughter, and kindness, reminding me that faith was not just about prayer—it was about love, compassion, and unity.

Our Kumbh Journey

We were awestruck by the magnificent arrangements and the day we took the dip there were 12.3 million other people who

Millions had gathered and marching towards the Triveni ghat, their eyes reflecting unwavering faith. Some walked barefoot for miles, carrying their devotion in their hearts and “Har Har Mahadev” on their lips. Others held onto family members, determined to reach the banks of the Triveni Sangam, where a single dip in the holy waters was believed to cleanse a lifetime of sins.

took the dip on the same day. Through the period of about 45 days, 660 million people had taken the dip from over 70 countries – a phenomenon of sorts perhaps near impossible to replicate by any means. Shri Narendra Modi as Prime Minister and Shri Yogi Adityanath as Chief Minister of the largest state in Bharat deserve all credit for this remarkable management and only a coordinated double engine sarkar could have done this.

Carrying the Kumbh Within Me

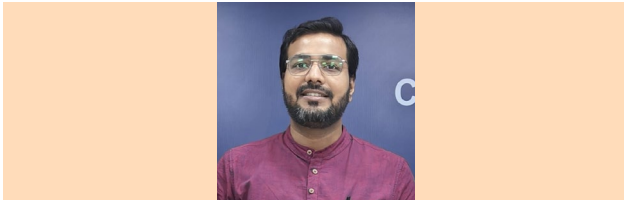
As we left the Kumbh Mela, I realized that it was not just an event; it was an experience that had changed me forever. The chants still echoed in my ears, the sight of countless diyas floating on the river remained imprinted in my mind, and my heart carried a newfound sense of peace.

The Kumbh Mela is not just a pilgrimage; it is a journey to the soul. A reminder that in the chaos of life, there exists a space where faith, love, and humanity thrive together. And in that space, we find ourselves and God.

|| Dharmo Rakshati Rakshitah ||

(S Jaganathan - is the Founder of www.TheVerandahClub.com – a bioscope of Kaleidoscopic Indian stories #WesternGhatsLitFest, #LitTales2024, #KonguTamilSangamam. He is the Convenor INTACHCoimbatore Chapter. Views expressed are personal.)

Maha Kumbh 2025: Redefines Global Event Management



Shivesh Pratap

Maha Kumbh 2025 was a civilization in motion. It is India's cultural soft power at its peak, reinforcing its status as the eternal land of wisdom, spirituality, and cultural brilliance. Maha Kumbh 2025 set a new global benchmark for hyper-scaled event governance, showcasing unparalleled efficiency, innovation, and strategic planning.

The Maha Kumbh 2025 in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, stands as a testament to India's unparalleled event management capabilities, orchestrating the world's largest religious congregation with remarkable precision. Spanning 45 days from January 13 to February 26, 2025, the event has drawn over 660 million devotees, surpassing initial projections and setting new records in mass gatherings. Maha Kumbh was a place where faith meets scholarship, art meets devotion, and tradition meets modernity.

When the world marvels at the logistical precision of the Olympics (10 million visitors in two weeks) or the FIFA World Cup (3.5 million fans over a month), India silently orchestrates a human spectacle of unmatched scale—Maha Kumbh 2025, where over 660 million pilgrims converge in a span of just 45 days. The Hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia, with its 2.5

million attendees, is considered a global benchmark in religious event management, yet Maha Kumbh dwarfs it by nearly 200 times in sheer numbers. Even the Brazilian Carnival, one of the world's largest cultural gatherings, hosts 10 million revelers, a fraction of the crowds flowing through the sacred ghats of Prayagraj.

More than just a religious congregation, Maha Kumbh is a colossal demonstration of India's organizational prowess, where millions bathe in the Ganga, navigate intricate logistics, and experience seamless crowd control—all while ensuring sustainability, security, and sanitation at an unprecedented scale. This is not just an event; it is India's silent yet powerful assertion of its soft power, administrative excellence, and ability to manage humanity's largest peaceful gathering.

The New Global Benchmark in Event Management

Maha Kumbh 2025 was a masterclass in large-scale event management, setting a precedent for the world. Managing a transient city of 660 million people, equivalent to the combined populations of the United States and Canada, demands an intricate blend of technology, governance, and administrative excellence. AI-powered crowd monitoring, real-time surveillance drones, predictive analytics, and an intelligent traffic management system ensure seamless movement, security, and emergency response.

The scale of logistics, sanitation, and infrastructure building a temporary megacity with hospitals, roads, and waste management for millions surpasses even the Tokyo Olympics or FIFA World Cup in complexity. Countries like Saudi Arabia, which manages the Hajj pilgrimage, or Japan & France, known for its Olympic precision, can study Maha Kumbh as a case study in hyper-scaled event governance. It was the gold standard, leading the world in orchestrating human movement on an unimaginable scale.

The Fusion of Faith, Economy, and Global Influence

Maha Kumbh 2025 was a diplomatic, economic, and strategic asset that amplifies India's soft power on the world stage. As the world's largest human gathering, it drawn foreign diplomats, international media, business leaders, and investors, were transforming it into a global networking hub. Spiritual tourism is now a multi-billion-dollar industry, and with millions of international visitors, Maha Kumbh cements India's status as the epicenter of cultural and faith-based tourism. Global corporations, from tech giants to FMCG leaders, airlines, and hospitality brands, are leveraging the event through CSR initiatives, infrastructure investments, and sponsorships, making it a business opportunity rather than just a religious event.

The presence of high-profile delegates and multinational partnerships turns the Kumbh Mela into a stage for economic diplomacy, where cultural prestige translates into bilateral ties, trade partnerships, and brand India's global outreach. Just as the

The Maha Kumbh 2025 in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, stands as a testament to India's unparalleled event management capabilities, orchestrating the world's largest religious congregation with remarkable precision. Spanning 45 days from January 13 to February 26, 2025, the event has drawn over 660 million devotees, surpassing initial projections and setting new records in mass gatherings.

Olympics and World Cup elevate national prestige, Maha Kumbh—rooted in India's timeless traditions—now stands as a unique model of influence, merging spirituality with diplomacy, commerce, and global engagement.

The “Smart Kumbh” – Technology Meets Tradition

Maha Kumbh 2025 was redefining pilgrimage with cutting-edge technology, transforming an ancient spiritual gathering into a “Smart Kumbh” powered by AI, blockchain, and real-time data analytics. With 5G-enabled connectivity, pilgrims could access instant updates on rituals, routes, and emergency services. RFID tracking ensures lost devotees—especially the elderly—were swiftly reunited with their families, while AI-driven chatbots provide multilingual assistance, making the event more accessible to international visitors.

A dedicated Maha Kumbh mobile app acted as a digital guide, were offering real-time train and bus statuses, navigation support, and updates on sanitation facilities, ensuring a seamless experience for millions. Blockchain technology secured donation transactions, enabling a cashless ecosystem for offerings and purchases, eliminating fraud and boosting transparency.

This fusion of tradition and technology positions India as a global leader in digital governance for mass events, were showcasing how ancient faith can coexist with modern innovation. Maha Kumbh 2025 is not just about spirituality; it's a case study in digital transformation, smart city management, and India's rising tech dominance on the global stage.

A Model for Sustainable Mega-Events

Maha Kumbh 2025 was a global benchmark for sustainability. With an expected footfall exceeding 660 million, the event was pioneering eco-conscious crowd management through zero-waste policies, renewable energy adoption, and large-scale green initiatives.

A network of biodegradable toilets and 100% waste recycling units ensures that the sacred banks of the Ganga remain pristine, setting a new standard for environmentally responsible tourism. Solar-powered lighting across the Kumbh Nagar minimized carbon footprint, while electric vehicles and biofuel-powered transport reduced emissions.

To tackle crowd-generated waste, the administration has deployed AI-driven waste segregation systems, made Maha Kumbh 2025 one of the largest circular

economy experiments in the world. Additionally, initiatives like "Green Seva Dal" (volunteer-driven clean-up teams) and plastic-free zones are ensuring that sustainability remains at the heart of the event.

By embedding green infrastructure into its very foundation, Maha Kumbh 2025 was not only preserving India's spiritual heritage but also demonstrating how mass gatherings can be environmentally sustainable. This event is India's message to the world—that faith and environmental responsibility can go hand in hand, setting a gold standard for future global mega-events.

A Grand Cultural Confluence Beyond Borders

Maha Kumbh 2025 was more than just a sacred Hindu pilgrimage—it was a global confluence of cultures, intellect, and artistic expression, drawing visitors from every corner of the world. While millions of devotees gather for spiritual fulfillment, the event has also become a living museum of ancient traditions, attracting scholars, artists, and seekers alike.

For academicians and Indologists, Maha Kumbh was an unparalleled opportunity to witness India's unbroken spiritual and cultural continuum, offering insights into rituals, oral traditions, and philosophical discourses that date back millennia. Leading universities and research institutions were sending scholars to document and analyze this living heritage, enriching global understanding of Indic knowledge systems.

For global tourists and photographers, the Kumbh was a visual spectacle like

no other—Naga Sadhus emerging from the dawn, vibrant akharas, grand aartis illuminating the Ganga, and processions reflecting the diversity of India's spiritual landscape. The sheer scale, color, and energy of the event have made it a dream destination for visual storytellers and cultural documentarians.

For spiritual seekers from the West, Kumbh was a bridge between modernity and mysticism. Yogis, meditation gurus, and spiritual masters offer discourses, yoga workshops, and wellness retreats, drawing thousands who seek wisdom beyond borders. The growing presence of international devotees—from Buddhist monks of Southeast Asia to New Age practitioners from Europe and America—highlighted India's expanding role as the spiritual capital of the world.

For artists, musicians, and performers, the Maha Kumbh was an unparalleled stage for India's intangible cultural heritage. Classical dancers, folk musicians, kavi sammelans, and street performers transform the Kumbh grounds into a festival of art, reviving ancient storytelling traditions through Kathak, Bharatanatyam, Bhajans, and Sanskrit recitals.

A Blueprint for Global Mega-Event Management

Maha Kumbh 2025 was not just an event—it was a masterclass in large-scale logistics, security, technology integration, and sustainable crowd management. The seamless handling sets a new global benchmark for event planning. The strategies deployed at Kumbh provide a replicable model for India's future mega-events.

For Cultural and Heritage Tourism Boosters, Maha Kumbh showcases how strategic marketing, digital outreach, and immersive tourism experiences can make India a global tourism powerhouse. The way Maha Kumbh has drawn foreign visitors, media coverage, and corporate sponsorships serves as a template for promoting sites like Varanasi, Ayodhya, Somnath, and Puri as world-class heritage destinations.

Maha Kumbh 2025 was a global case study in event excellence, proving that India is no longer just participating in international event management but setting new standards for the world to follow.

The message is clear—India is no longer just a participant in global event management; it is a leader, an innovator, and a pioneer. Maha Kumbh is not just a festival; it is India's proof of concept for hosting the world's biggest summits, sporting events, and cultural expos. The Maha Kumbh Mela 2025 exemplifies India's exceptional event management prowess, seamlessly blending spiritual tradition with contemporary infrastructure and technology. The successful orchestration of this colossal event not only reinforces India's cultural heritage but also showcases its capacity to manage large-scale events, contributing significantly to economic growth and global recognition.

(Shivesh Pratap is a seasoned technology management consultant, public policy analyst, author, and columnist. He holds a degree in Electronics Engineering and is an alumnus of IIM Calcutta, specializing in Supply Chain Management. Views expressed are personal)

प्रयागराज महाकुंभ - आस्था, प्रशासन और सांस्कृतिक गौरव का अद्भुत संगम



चन्द्रशील पाण्डेय

भा

रत की आध्यात्मिक और सांस्कृतिक परंपराओं का सबसे भव्य उत्सव महाकुंभ विश्व के बड़े धार्मिक समागम में से एक है। प्रयागराज महाकुंभ न केवल धार्मिक आस्था का संगम था, बल्कि यह एक प्रशासनिक कौशल, सांस्कृतिक समृद्धि और वैश्विक आकर्षण का प्रतीक भी बना।

यह ऐतिहासिक आयोजन 13 जनवरी से 26 फरवरी 2025 तक चला, जिसमें अनुमानतः 66 करोड़ से अधिक श्रद्धालु पहुंचे, जो कई देशों की कुल जनसंख्या से अधिक है। प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेंद्र मोदी तथा उत्तर प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री श्री योगी आदित्यनाथ के कुशल नेतृत्व में, इस महाकुंभ ने आधुनिक तकनीकों, स्वच्छता, सुरक्षा और सांस्कृतिक विरासत के उत्कृष्ट समावेश से एक नया कीर्तिमान स्थापित किया।

महाकुंभ की पौराणिक एवं ऐतिहासिक पृष्ठभूमि

महाकुंभ मेला हिंदू धर्म में सबसे महत्वपूर्ण धार्मिक आयोजनों में से एक है, जिसकी जड़ें वेदों और पुराणों में मिलती हैं। मान्यता के अनुसार, समुद्र मंथन के दौरान जब अमृत कलश की कुछ बूंदें पृथ्वी पर गिरीं, तो वे चार स्थानों – प्रयागराज, हरिद्वार, उज्जैन और नासिक में गिरीं। तभी से इन स्थानों पर कुम्भ मेले का आयोजन किया जाता है।

प्रयागराज को विशेष महत्व प्राप्त है, क्योंकि यह गंगा, यमुना और अदृश्य सरस्वती का संगम स्थल है। यहां का कुम्भ मेला हर 12 वर्ष में आयोजित होता है और हर 144 वर्षों में महाकुंभ का आयोजन किया जाता है।

महाकुंभ : आध्यात्मिकता और प्रशासनिक सफलता

का संगम

महाकुंभ में सरकार की ओर से किए गए प्रशासनिक प्रबंधों और नवाचारों ने इसे दिव्य, भव्य और सुरक्षित आयोजन बनाया।

1. श्रद्धालुओं की ऐतिहासिक भागीदारी

इस बार महाकुंभ में लगभग 66 करोड़ से अधिक श्रद्धालुओं ने स्नान किया, जो विश्व का सबसे बड़ा शांतिपूर्ण जनसमूह रहा। यह संख्या अमेरिका की कुल जनसंख्या के दोगुने से अधिक है।

2. स्वच्छता और हरित महाकुंभ

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी द्वारा शुरू किए गए स्वच्छ भारत अभियान के तहत महाकुंभ 2025 को 100% प्लास्टिक मुक्त और हरित महाकुंभ के रूप में आयोजित किया गया। 50,000 से अधिक शौचालयों का निर्माण किया गया। 10,000 से अधिक स्वच्छता कर्मियों की नियुक्ति की गई। गंगा को साफ और निर्मल बनाए रखने के लिए 'नमामि गंगे' परियोजना के तहत विशेष अभियान चलाया गया।

3. सुरक्षा के अभूतपूर्व इंतजाम

महाकुंभ में सुरक्षा और भीड़ नियंत्रण के लिए पहली बार आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस (AI) और ड्रोन तकनीक का उपयोग किया गया। 5000 से अधिक सीसीटीवी कैमरे लगाए गए। ड्रोन निगरानी और फेस रिकॉग्निशन सिस्टम के जरिए संदिग्ध गतिविधियों पर नजर रखी गई। 20,000 से अधिक पुलिस और अर्धसैनिक बलों की तैनाती की गई। महिलाओं और बच्चों की सुरक्षा के लिए विशेष हेल्पलाइन नंबर और कंट्रोल रूम स्थापित किए गए।

4. आधुनिक यातायात और परिवहन सुविधा

महाकुंभ में सुगम यातायात के लिए नई सड़कें, रेलवे स्टेशन और परिवहन सेवाओं को उन्नत किया गया। रेलवे ने 1000 से अधिक विशेष ट्रेनें चलाईं। 50,000 से अधिक बसों की सेवा दी गई। प्रयागराज एयरपोर्ट को अपग्रेड किया गया और चार्टर्ड

फ्लाइट्स की सुविधा प्रदान की गई। प्रमुख स्थानों पर ई-रिक्षा और बैटरी से चलने वाले वाहन उपलब्ध कराए गए।

5. डिजिटल महाकुंभ: स्मार्ट तकनीकों का उपयोग

मोबाइल ऐप्स और वेबसाइट्स के माध्यम से श्रद्धालुओं को मार्गदर्शन दिया गया। कैशलेस ट्रांजेक्शन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए डिजिटल भुगतान की सुविधाएं दी गईं। श्रद्धालुओं की सहायता के लिए चैटबॉट और हेल्पडेस्क बनाए गए।

आर्थिक और सांस्कृतिक प्रभाव

1. पर्यटन और व्यापार को बढ़ावा

महाकुंभ ने स्थानीय और राष्ट्रीय अर्थव्यवस्था को भी जबरदस्त बढ़ावा दिया। व्यापार संगठनों के अनुसार, महाकुंभ 2025 के दौरान 3.5 लाख करोड़ रुपये का कारोबार हुआ। होटल, लॉज, धर्मशालाओं और होमस्टे में 100% बुकिंग रही। प्रयागराज, वाराणसी, अयोध्या, चित्रकूट और मथुरा जैसे धार्मिक स्थलों में भी भारी संख्या में श्रद्धालु पहुंचे। हस्तशिल्प, खादी वस्त्र, आध्यात्मिक साहित्य, प्रसाद सामग्री आदि का व्यापार बढ़ा।

2. सांस्कृतिक आयोजनों का भव्य मंच

महाकुंभ केवल एक धार्मिक आयोजन नहीं, बल्कि एक सांस्कृतिक उत्सव भी है। कला और सांस्कृतिक मंचों पर देशभर के कलाकारों ने प्रदर्शन किया। रामलीला, कथक, लोकगीत और नृत्य जैसे पारंपरिक कार्यक्रमों का आयोजन हुआ। विश्वविद्यालयों और शोध संस्थानों के लिए विशेष सेमिनार और प्रदर्शनियाँ आयोजित की गईं।

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी जी की विशेष भूमिका

प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने प्रयागराज महाकुंभ को वैश्विक पहचान दिलाने में अहम भूमिका निभाई। उन्होंने आयोजन के सफल समापन पर कहा:

प्रयागराज में महाकुंभ के दौरान सभी देवी-देवता जुटे, संत-महात्मा जुटे, बाल-वृद्ध जुटे, महिलाएं-युवा जुटे, और हमने देश की जागृत चेतना का साक्षात्कार किया। ये महाकुंभ एकता का महाकुंभ था, जहां 140 करोड़ देशवासियों की आस्था एक साथ एक समय में इस एक पर्व से आकर जुड़ गई थी। तीर्थराज प्रयाग के इसी क्षेत्र में एकता, समरसता और प्रेम का पवित्र क्षेत्र श्रृंगवेरपुर भी है, जहां प्रभु श्रीराम और निषादराज का मिलन

हुआ था। उनके मिलन का वो प्रसंग भी हमारे इतिहास में भक्ति और सद्भाव के संगम की तरह ही है। प्रयागराज का ये तीर्थ आज भी हमें एकता और समरसता की वो प्रेरणा देता है।

पूरी दुनिया हैरान है कि कैसे एक नदी तट पर, त्रिवेणी संगम पर इतनी बड़ी संख्या में करोड़ों की संख्या में लोग जुटे। इन करोड़ों लोगों को ना औपचारिक निमंत्रण था, ना ही किस समय पहुंचना है, उसकी कोई पूर्व सूचना थी। बस, लोग महाकुंभ चल पड़े... और पवित्र संगम में डुबकी लगाकर धन्य हो गए। आज पूरे विश्व में इस तरह के विराट आयोजन की कोई दूसरी तुलना नहीं है, ऐसा कोई दूसरा उदाहरण भी नहीं है।

पीएम ने आगे लिखा, “मैं वो तस्वीरें भूल नहीं सकता... स्नान के बाद असीम आनंद और संतोष से भरे वो चेहरे नहीं भूल सकता। महिलाएं हों, बुजुर्ग हों, हमारे दिव्यांग जन हों, जिससे जो बन पड़ा, वो साधन करके संगम तक पहुंचा।”

पीएम मोदी ने महाकुंभ में युवाओं की भागीदारी को खास बताया और लिखा, “भारत के युवाओं का इस तरह महाकुंभ में हिस्सा लेने के लिए आगे आना, एक बहुत बड़ा संदेश है। इससे ये विश्वास दृढ़ होता है कि भारत की युवा पीढ़ी हमारे संस्कार और संस्कृति की वाहक है और इसे आगे ले जाने का दायित्व समझती है और इसे लेकर संकल्पित भी है, समर्पित भी है।”

निःसंदेह प्रयागराज महाकुंभ 2025 ने भारत की आध्यात्मिक, सांस्कृतिक और प्रशासनिक उत्कृष्टता को पूरे विश्व में प्रदर्शित किया। यह आयोजन केवल एक धार्मिक अनुष्ठान नहीं, बल्कि भारत की महान परंपराओं, स्वच्छता, सुरक्षा, नवाचार और आर्थिक विकास का महोत्सव था।

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी और मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ के नेतृत्व में यह महाकुंभ पहले से अधिक व्यवस्थित, आधुनिक और दिव्य रहा। यह न केवल श्रद्धालुओं की आस्था का संगम बना, बल्कि भारत के सांस्कृतिक नेतृत्व और प्रशासनिक क्षमता का भी प्रतीक बन गया।

यह कहना अतिशयोक्ति नहीं होगी कि प्रयागराज महाकुंभ 2025 ने एक नए भारत के आत्मविश्वास और गौरव को पूरी दुनिया के सामने रखा।

(लेखक महात्मा गांधी काशी विद्यापीठ में अतिथि प्राध्यापक हैं, प्रस्तुत विचार लेखक के निजी हैं)

महाकुंभ 2025 : भारत की सनातन चेतना और प्रशासनिक उत्कृष्टता का भव्य संगम



डॉ शैलेन्द्र कुमार शुक्ल

भारत कोई साधारण भूखंड नहीं, यह आत्मा है — चिरंतन, अनादि और अनंत। इसकी सांस्कृतिक चेतना केवल पुस्तकों, मंदिरों या रीति-नीतियों में नहीं, बल्कि उन विराट आयोजनों में प्रकट होती है जहाँ आस्था, परंपरा, विज्ञान और संगठन अपनी चरम सीमा पर होते हैं। इन आयोजनों में सर्वोच्च स्थान पर है — महाकुंभ, जो हर 12 वर्षों में त्रिवेणी संगम पर उमड़ता है और एक समूचे राष्ट्र को एक आध्यात्मिक लय में बांध देता है।

महाकुंभ 2025 का आयोजन प्रयागराज में 13 जनवरी से 26 फरवरी तक हुआ, और यह आयोजन केवल आस्था का सैलाब नहीं था — यह भारत की प्रशासनिक क्षमता, तकनीकी दक्षता और सांस्कृतिक चेतना का जीवंत प्रमाण था। लगभग 65 करोड़ श्रद्धालुओं की भागीदारी ने इसे न केवल भारत, बल्कि विश्व के इतिहास का सबसे बड़ा आध्यात्मिक और मानवीय आयोजन बना दिया।

संगम के तट पर जब सूर्योदय की लालिमा फैलती है, जब जल में दीपकों की कतारें उतरती हैं, जब नागा संन्यासी गेरुए वस्त्रों और भभूत से आलोकित होते हुए गंगा में डुबकी लगाते हैं, तो वह क्षण केवल धर्म नहीं, बल्कि संस्कृति, परंपरा और आत्मा का पुनर्जन्म बन जाता है। यह वह अनुभव है जिसे कोई कैमरा, कोई आंकड़ा, कोई भाषण कभी पूरी तरह व्यक्त नहीं कर सकता — इसे केवल वही समझ सकता है जिसने कुंभ को जिया हो।

महाकुंभ 2025 की सफलता के पीछे दो विशिष्ट नेतृत्व खड़े हैं — प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी और मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ। एक ने इसे विश्व स्तर पर भारत की सांस्कृतिक पहचान के रूप में स्थापित किया, तो दूसरे ने इसे जमीन पर एक अव्यवस्थित जनसमूह से सुव्यवस्थित तीर्थ में बदल दिया।

प्रधानमंत्री मोदी का दृष्टिकोण प्रारंभ से ही स्पष्ट रहा है — भारत को वैश्विक मंच पर सांस्कृतिक सॉफ्ट पावर के रूप में स्थापित करना। उन्होंने महाकुंभ को 'डिवाइन डेस्टिनेशन' और 'आध्यात्मिक पर्यटन' के रूप में परिभाषित किया, जिससे विदेशी श्रद्धालुओं की संख्या में उल्लेखनीय वृद्धि हुई। उनकी पहल पर ही महाकुंभ को यूनेस्को की अमूर्त सांस्कृतिक धरोहरों की सूची में स्थान मिला, जो कि न केवल कुम्भ की, बल्कि भारत की आत्मा की वैश्विक मान्यता है।

दूसरी ओर, मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ, जिनकी पहचान एक संत और एक प्रशासक — दोनों रूपों में है — उन्होंने इस आयोजन को सुशासन और सेवा का अनुपम उदाहरण बना दिया। प्रयागराज में टेंट सिटी की भव्यता, साफ-सुथरी सड़कें, 24 घंटे बिजली-पानी, 1.25 लाख जैविक शौचालय, 60,000 सुरक्षाकर्मियों की तैनाती, और AI-आधारित भीड़ प्रबंधन जैसे उपायों ने यह स्पष्ट कर दिया कि अब भारत केवल परंपरा नहीं, प्रौद्योगिकी और प्रबंधन में भी विश्व का पथप्रदर्शक है।

महाकुंभ केवल गंगा में स्नान का पर्व नहीं, बल्कि यह वह मंच है जहाँ भारत के विविध संप्रदाय — शैव, वैष्णव, शाक्त, उदासीन, निर्वाणी, निर्मल, जटाधारी — सभी एक साथ खड़े होते हैं, बिना किसी टकराव के, केवल एक गूंज में: “हर हर महादेव!”



संगम क्षेत्र को ग्रीन जोन घोषित किया गया। प्लास्टिक के उपयोग पर प्रतिबंध, सौर ऊर्जा चालित लाइटें, और जैविक अपशिष्ट निस्तारण केंद्रों ने यह सिद्ध कर दिया कि आज का भारत पर्यावरण और परंपरा के बीच सामंजस्य स्थापित करना जानता है। यह महाकुंभ 'स्वच्छ भारत' अभियान की सबसे सुंदर अभिव्यक्ति बन गया।

शाही स्नान की भव्यता, नागा साधुओं की पेशवाई, संतों के प्रवचन, लोक संगीत और वेद पाठ — इन सबने मिलकर कुम्भ को एक जीवित सांस्कृतिक महागाथा बना दिया। विशेष यह भी रहा कि इस बार श्रद्धालुओं की सुविधा के लिए मोबाइल एप्स, रीयल टाइम ट्रैफिक अपडेट, और GPS-आधारित सहायता केंद्र बनाए गए। खोए हुए व्यक्ति की जानकारी अब announcements पर निर्भर नहीं रही, बल्कि facial recognition तकनीक के माध्यम से कुछ ही मिनटों में परिवार तक पहुँचा दी गई।

लेकिन यह आयोजन केवल एक तीर्थ नहीं था, यह एक लोक-समुदाय का उत्सव था। प्रयागराज के कारीगरों, व्यापारियों, होटल मालिकों, वाहन चालकों और हजारों अस्थायी श्रमिकों को इससे जीविका मिली। एक अनुमान के अनुसार इस आयोजन से लगभग ₹1.2 लाख करोड़ की आर्थिक गतिविधियाँ उत्पन्न हुईं — यह बताता है कि आस्था और अर्थनीति, परंपरा और प्रगति, दोनों साथ चल सकते हैं।

महाकुंभ केवल गंगा में स्नान का पर्व नहीं, बल्कि

यह वह मंच है जहाँ भारत के विविध संप्रदाय — शैव, वैष्णव, शाक्त, उदासीन, निर्वाणी, निर्मल, जटाधारी — सभी एक साथ खड़े होते हैं, बिना किसी टकराव के, केवल एक गूंज में: “हर हर महादेव!”

यह आयोजन हमें बार-बार यह याद दिलाता है कि भारत की आत्मा उसकी विविधता में नहीं, उस विविधता में एकता के भाव में है। यह आयोजन केवल भारतवासियों के लिए नहीं, सम्पूर्ण मानवता के लिए एक सन्देश है — कि जब मनुष्य अपने भीतर की यात्रा करता है, तो वह बाहर की व्यवस्था को भी सुंदर बनाता है।

आज जब विश्व अपने अस्तित्व और अस्मिता के संकट से जूझ रहा है, भारत से उठती यह आध्यात्मिक ध्वनि — यह गंगा के जल की गूंज, यह संन्यासियों की घंटा-ध्वनि, यह शास्त्रों की वाणी और संगम की वाणी — सम्पूर्ण मानवता को संतुलन और समाधान का मार्ग दिखा रही है।

महाकुंभ 2025, भारत के लिए केवल एक आयोजन नहीं था। यह एक उत्तरदायित्व का निर्वहन, एक संस्कृति की पुनः प्रतिष्ठा, और एक चेतना की पुकार थी। और जब संगम के तट पर अंतिम दीप प्रवाहित हुआ, तो ऐसा प्रतीत हुआ मानो स्वयं माँ भारती ने अपने आँचल से हमें आशीर्वाद दिया हो।

(लेखक डॉ श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी रिसर्च फाउंडेशन में रिसर्च एसोसिएट हैं। प्रस्तुत विचार लेखक के निजी हैं।)

महाकुंभ 2025: आस्था, आत्मगौरव और आर्थिक सशक्तिकरण का वैश्विक संगम



प्रिया श्रीवास्तव

प्र यागराज की पुण्यभूमि एक बार फिर इतिहास के उस स्वर्णिम क्षण की साक्षी बन चुकी है, जहां आस्था की तरंगें गंगा, यमुना और अदृश्य सरस्वती के संगम पर करोड़ों श्रद्धालुओं को आत्मशुद्धि की अनुभूति कराई। महाकुंभ 2025 में लगभग 70 से अधिक देशों से आए श्रद्धालुओं का स्वागत किया गया और कुल आगंतुकों की संख्या 65 करोड़ के पार गई जो अमेरिका और कनाडा की कुल जनसंख्या से अधिक है।

इस विशाल आयोजन की सफलता भारत सरकार

और उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार के सुनियोजित प्रयासों का परिणाम है। प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी एवं मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ की निर्णायक नेतृत्व क्षमता, प्रशासनिक दक्षता और सुरक्षा बलों की सतर्कता ने इसे एक उदाहरणात्मक आयोजन बना दिया है। स्वयंसेवकों से लेकर पुलिस, अर्धसैनिक बल और स्वास्थ्यकर्मी— सभी ने अद्वितीय सेवा भाव से इस अनुपम कार्य को अंजाम दिया है।

यह सत्य है कि इतने विशाल आयोजन में कुछ अव्यवस्थाएं या दुर्घटनाएं स्वाभाविक हैं, लेकिन उनका राजनीतिकरण करना अनुचित है। ऐसे आयोजनों में कार्यरत हर कर्मयोगी का मनोबल अत्यंत मूल्यवान होता है, जिसे किसी भी सस्ती राजनीतिक टिप्पणी से आहत नहीं किया जाना चाहिए।

धार्मिकता से परे सांस्कृतिक पुनर्जागरण

महाकुंभ केवल एक धार्मिक अनुष्ठान नहीं, बल्कि



यह भारतीय सनातन संस्कृति का जीवंत शिलालेख है—जहां विविधता में एकता की परिकल्पना साकार होती है। यहां जातीय भेदों के परे एक व्यापक हिंदू चेतना का उदय होता है, जो समरसता, संयम और संयोजन का प्रतीक है। यह आयोजन न केवल अध्यात्म का उत्सव है, बल्कि हिंदू समाज की सामूहिक चेतना और सांस्कृतिक आत्मबोध का एक प्रबल प्रतीक भी है।

आर्थिक परिप्रेक्ष्य में महाकुंभ

महाकुंभ 2025 भारत की अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए भी एक उल्लेखनीय अवसर बन कर उभरा है। यदि प्रति श्रद्धालु का औसत व्यय ₹10,000 मानें तो कुल आगंतुकों के माध्यम से लगभग ₹5 लाख करोड़ का प्रत्यक्ष और अप्रत्यक्ष आर्थिक योगदान प्राप्त हुआ है। पर्यटन, आतिथ्य, परिवहन, शिल्पकला, खाद्य एवं औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों को इसका बड़ा लाभ मिला है।

वर्ष 2023-24 में भारत ने 7.06 लाख विदेशी पर्यटकों से ₹19,266 करोड़ की आय अर्जित की थी। यह स्पष्ट है कि धार्मिक-सांस्कृतिक आयोजनों के माध्यम से भारत वैश्विक पर्यटन मानचित्र पर एक नया आयाम जोड़ रहा है।

स्थानीय विकास की दृष्टि से संभावनाएं

‘एक जिला, एक पर्यटन स्थल’ और ‘एक ब्लॉक,

महाकुंभ केवल एक धार्मिक अनुष्ठान नहीं, बल्कि यह भारतीय सनातन संस्कृति का जीवंत शिलालेख है—जहां विविधता में एकता की परिकल्पना साकार होती है। यहां जातीय भेदों के परे एक व्यापक हिंदू चेतना का उदय होता है, जो समरसता, संयम और संयोजन का प्रतीक है। यह आयोजन न केवल अध्यात्म का उत्सव है, बल्कि हिंदू समाज की सामूहिक चेतना और सांस्कृतिक आत्मबोध का एक प्रबल प्रतीक भी है।

महाकुंभ 2025 भारत की अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए भी एक उल्लेखनीय अवसर बन कर उभरा है। यदि प्रति श्रद्धालु का औसत व्यय ₹10,000 मानें तो कुल आगंतुकों के माध्यम से लगभग ₹5 लाख करोड़ का प्रत्यक्ष और अप्रत्यक्ष आर्थिक योगदान प्राप्त हुआ है। पर्यटन, आतिथ्य, परिवहन, शिल्पकला, खाद्य एवं औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों को इसका बड़ा लाभ मिला है।

एक उत्पाद’ जैसी योजनाएं यदि महाकुंभ की तर्ज पर स्थानीय स्तर पर लागू की जाएं, तो भारत के ग्रामीण और अर्ध-शहरी क्षेत्र भी आर्थिक गतिविधियों के केंद्र बन सकते हैं। इससे न केवल स्वरोजगार को बढ़ावा मिलेगा, बल्कि सरकारों पर नौकरी उपलब्ध कराने का दबाव भी कम होगा।

वैश्विक परामर्श की दिशा में भारत

जिस प्रकार भारत निर्वाचन आयोग चुनावी प्रक्रियाओं के लिए वैश्विक परामर्श दे रहा है, उसी प्रकार भीड़ प्रबंधन की विशेषज्ञता को भी भारत एक सेवा निर्यात के रूप में विकसित कर सकता है। महाकुंभ के दौरान भीड़ नियंत्रण, स्वच्छता प्रबंधन और तकनीकी नवाचारों को जिस प्रकार अमल में लाया गया, वह दुनिया के किसी भी बड़े आयोजन को दिशा देने में सक्षम है।

महाकुंभ केवल एक धार्मिक आयोजन नहीं, बल्कि भारत की सांस्कृतिक विरासत, प्रशासनिक क्षमता, आर्थिक संभावनाओं और सामाजिक समरसता का समेकित प्रदर्शन है। यह आयोजन भारत के लिए एक ऐसी वैश्विक पहचान बन सकता है, जो देश को न केवल सांस्कृतिक नेतृत्व की ओर अग्रसर करे, बल्कि विश्व पर्यटन और ज्ञान-सेवा आधारित अर्थव्यवस्था में भी अग्रणी भूमिका दिलाए।

(लेखिका असम विश्वविद्यालय में शोधार्थी हैं। प्रस्तुत विचार लेखक के निजी हैं।)

Dr. Anirban Ganguly addressed a session on BJP's ideological foundations and intellectual legacy—from Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee to New India—at the I Am BJP Future Force Boot Camp in Bhopal on 30th March 2025. A visionary perspective on modern governance under PM Narendra Modi's leadership!



Dr. Anirban Ganguly delivered the valedictory address at the two-day national conference on “Implications of the Political Turmoil in Bangladesh,” organized by MAKAIAS & ARSP in New Delhi. Quoting PM Narendra Modi's message, he emphasized the enduring spirit of the Liberation War that must guide India-Bangladesh relations on 27 March 2025



"A young batch of young professionals, scholars, social activists from Rashtram School of Public Leadership are embarking on a countrywide Good Governance Yatra. Dr Anirban Ganguly, Chairman Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation, addressed them, sharing insights on BJP's history & ideology and reflecting on PM Narendra Modi's vision and model of good governance at BJP HQ. The group were fascinated to visit the BJP central library – a one of its kind." on 24 March 2025



Maha Bodhi Society of India, in collaboration with SPMRF, organized the 86th Anniversary of Buddha Vihar & National Conference on Pali Language at Buddha Vihar, New Delhi on 22nd March 2025



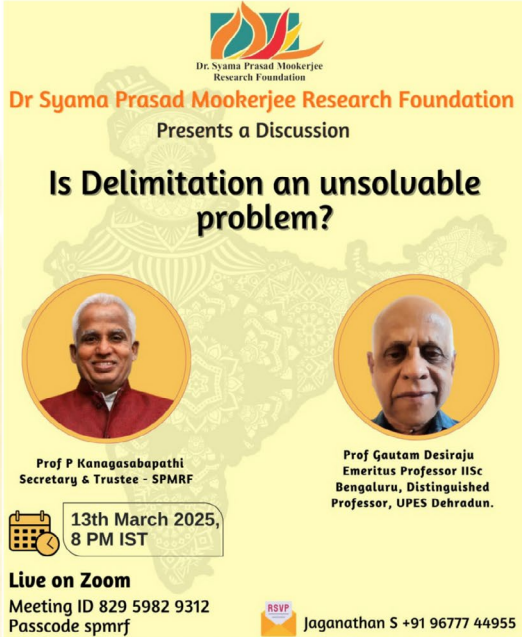
Dr Anirban Ganguly delivered the keynote address at the Seminar on "One Nation, One Election" in Gangtok on 21st March 2025, Organised by One Nation One Election team Sikkim



Shyam Lal College (DU) in collaboration with Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation & IQAC organized a Lecture on "One Nation, One Election" on 19 March 2025 at Shyam Lal College (DU)



Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation organised a discussion on 'Is Delimitation an Unsolvable Problem?' on 13 March 2025



Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation
Presents a Discussion

Is Delimitation an unsolvable problem?

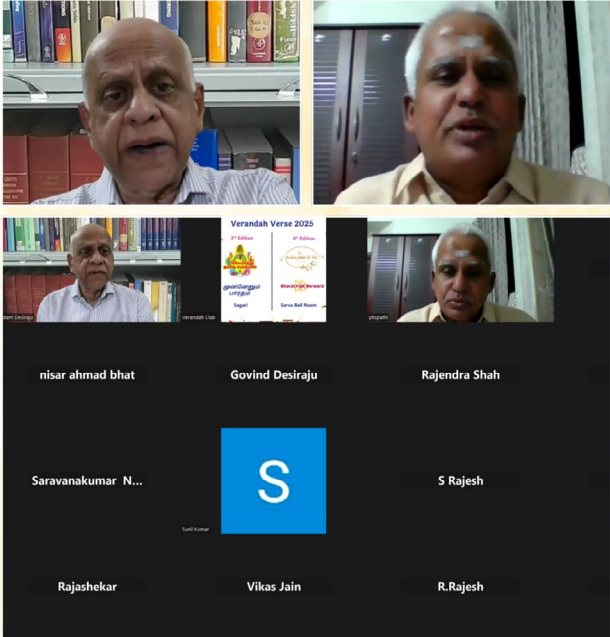
Prof P Kanagasabapathi
Secretary & Trustee - SPMRF

Prof Gautam Desiraju
Emeritus Professor IISc Bengaluru, Distinguished Professor, UPES Dehradun.

13th March 2025, 8 PM IST

Live on Zoom
Meeting ID 829 5982 9312
Passcode spmrf

RSVP Jaganathan S +91 96777 44955



Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation organised a discussion on "Exploring The Idea of National Heritage Corridor For India" at SPMRF on 12th March 2025



Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation

Discussion on

EXPLORING THE IDEA OF NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR FOR INDIA

Speakers:

- ANIL DHIR**
GOVERNING COUNCIL MEMBER, INTACH
- SURYA SARATHI ROY**
HERITAGE CONSERVATIONIST, HERITAGE RESEARCHER, UNESCO DESK REVIEWER OF WORLD HERITAGE SITES & EXPLORER
- SHIVAM DUBEY**
ARCHAEOLOGIST & CONVENOR, BHAR
- PATHIKRIT PAYNE**
GEO-POLITICAL ANALYST, COLUMNIST & SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW, SPMRF



Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation organised the book launch of "Power Within: The Leadership Legacy of Narendra Modi" at The Arya Vaidya Pharmacy, Ramanathapuram, Coimbatore on 09 March 2025



Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation, in collaboration with Himalayan Buddhist Cultural Association, organized a conference on "Pali – India's Classical Language and Bhagavan Buddha's Legacy and Heritage" at Sri Kalchakra Temple, Salugara, Siliguri, West Bengal on 08 March 2025



Dr. Anirban Ganguly delivered the Valedictory Address at the Two-Day National Workshop on “The Socio-Ethical Perspectives of Buddhist Philosophy in the Sutta Pitaka Pali” at Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida on 25th February 2025



Dr. Anirban Ganguly spoke at the exhibition and panel discussion titled “The Never Ending Persecution of Minorities in Bangladesh,” held at the Vivekananda International Foundation, New Delhi on 24th February 2025



Report Launch & Discussion on “The Harihara of Vallapur and a Hidden Shivite Corridor in Western Himalayas (Jammu)” at Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi on 19th February 2025



Dr Anirban Ganguly spoke on the inaugural day of Samvad-IV: Global Hindu-Buddhist Initiative for Conflict Avoidance & Environment Consciousness, organized by Vivekananda International Foundation on 14-16 February 2025 at At UNESCAP, Bangkok.



Dr. Anirban Ganguly delivered the Valedictory Address at the Two-Day National Workshop on “The Socio-Ethical Perspectives of Buddhist Philosophy in the Sutta Pitaka Pali” at Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida on 25th February 2025



Dr. Anirban Ganguly spoke at the exhibition and panel discussion titled “The Never Ending Persecution of Minorities in Bangladesh,” held at the Vivekananda International Foundation, New Delhi on 24th February 2025



Insightful perspectives from eminent speakers at the Young Scholars' Dialogue on One Nation One Election, organized by SPMRF, held on 12th February 2025 at 9, Ashoka Road, New Delhi, shaping the future of democracy!



Samarpan Diwas programme in Jammu on 11th February 2025



Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation organized a deliberation on “Viksit Bharat: A Leap Forward with Budget 2025” at 9, Ashoka Road, New Delhi on 7th February 2025



Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation
New Delhi

Cordially invites you for a deliberation (hybrid mode) on the historic Budget 2025

Viksit Bharat
a leap forward with Budget 2025

DR ANIRBAN GANGULY
Chairman, SPMRF

PROF P KANAKASABAPATHI
Secretary & Trustee, SPMRF

SURABHI HODIGERE
Public Policy Expert & Harvard Alumni

SUSHANT BHANSALI
CEO, Asset Management

TRILOK AGARWAL
Fund Manager, Asset Management

Venue- 9, Ashoka Road, New Delhi

Live on Zoom
Meeting ID 890 9513 4738
Passcode 835463

7th February 2025
5.30 PM TO 7 PM

RSVP
Amit Kumar 78273 73761
Jaganathan S 96777 44955



A collage of photographs showing participants in a hybrid meeting. It includes individual portraits of Dr. Anirban Ganguly, Prof. P. Kanakasabapathi, and Surabhi Hodigere, as well as group photos of the panel and audience in a conference room.

A special lecture by Dr Anirban Ganguly on “Kashmir: Understanding Its Past, Present, and Future” organized by the Varanasi Institute of History at Banaras Hindu University on 7th February 2025.



You are most Cordially invited to the Special Lecture in the

National Seminar
on
Kashmir : Past, Present and Future
(कश्मीर : अतीत, वर्तमान और भविष्य)

6th-7th FEBRUARY 2025

Organized by
Varanasi Institute of History
Funded by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (Ministry of Education, New Delhi)

Special Lecture

Dr. Anirban Ganguly
Chairman, Dr. S.P.M. Research Foundation, New Delhi
7th FEBRUARY 2025
11:30 - 12:30pm

Venue
Vedic Vigyan Kendra, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi-221005



A collage of photographs from the lecture. It shows Dr. Anirban Ganguly speaking at a podium, a close-up of him, and a wide shot of the lecture hall with an audience seated in front of a large screen displaying the presentation.

An engaging session with Dr. Anirban Ganguly at PGDAV College, where young scholars explored the foundations and aspirations of our Republic. Thanks to "Samvaad" initiative for organizing this insightful discussion! on 30 January 2025



Maha Bodhi Society of India in collaboration with Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation organized a National Seminar on Classical Languages: Pali & Odia on 26 January 2025 at the Odisha Centre, Maha Bodhi Society of India, Bhubaneswar.



A special evening in Kolkata: SPMRF organized the launch of the volume 'Narendra Damodardas Modi Selected Speeches', translation in Bengali & compilation by Shri Rathin Bose, showcasing a decade of Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi's visionary governance (2013-2023). From the Gujarat Model to Viksit Bharat, this inspiring event, held at Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee Bhasha Bhavan, National Library, resonated with transformative leadership and national pride." The book was released by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tripura Prof Dr Manik Saha on 22 January 2025



Pongal celebrations with Delhi based Tamils at Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation on 19 January 2025



Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation organized a National Seminar On Pali : India's classical Language and Buddha's Legacy at Jetawan Inter College Shrawasti, Uttar Pradesh on January 19, 2025



Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation organized a discussion On Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and Dimensions of the Constitution: History & Perspectives. at India International Centre, New Delhi on 17 January 2025



Interaction Program on Pali as a Classical Language and the Inauguration of Pali Courses! In collaboration with Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation, Swami Vivekananda Subharti University presents: M.A. (Pali), 6-month Certificate Courses, and Vipassana Meditation on 09 January 2025



Dr. Anirban Ganguly delivered a public talk at the Buddha Tri-Ratna Mission, New Delhi, on preserving Lord Buddha's heritage and Pali as India's classical language. The event also highlighted the contributions of Sir Ashutosh Mookerjee and Prof. Beni Madhab Baru on 04 January 2025.





Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee
Research Foundation

AMRIT KAAL KI ORE SERIES



महिला दिवस : लाभार्थी से नेतृत्वकर्ता



डॉ श्वेता सरिन

निदेशिका - आरम्भ हॉस्पिटल, वाराणसी



AMRIT KAAL KI ORE SERIES



Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee
Research Foundation

India's Quest For Tech Sovereignty: The Road Ahead



ABHISHEK BHATT

Vice President Consocia Advisory

A HIDDEN ANCIENT CORRIDOR IN
JAMMU SHIVALIKS &

The Harihara of Vallapur

Presentation by Venus Upadhayaya

AMRIT KAAL KI ORE SERIES

**Unraveling
Hidden Histories:
Jammu's Dharmic
Treasures**

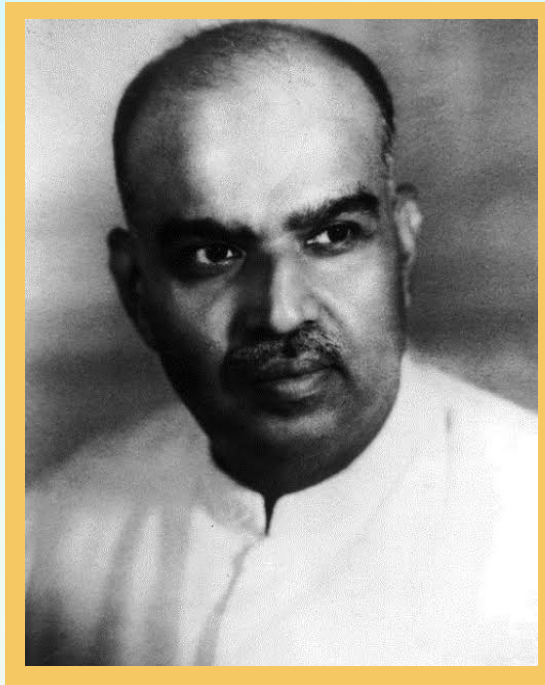


VENUS UPADHAYAYA
SENIOR CORRESPONENT & AUTHOR



Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee
Research Foundation





“Freedom consists not only in the absence of restraint but also in the presence of opportunity. Liberty is not a single and simple conception. It has four elements – national, political, personal and economic. The man who is fully free is one who lives in a country which is independent; in a state which is democratic; in a society where laws are equal and restrictions at a minimum; in an economic system in which national interests are protected and the citizen has the scope of secure livelihood, an assured comfort and full opportunity to rise by merit.

-Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee
Patna University Convocation
27th November 1937

Published By:

Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation

9, Ashoka Road New Delhi - 110001

E-mail: office@spmrf.org, Phone: 011-69047014